

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 /100 W
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R 141559Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7973
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 36923

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR MARR MOPS OCLR FR SE FT
SUBJ: FOREIGN MILITARY ACCESS TO SEYCHELLES

REF: (A) STATE 284690, (B) LONDON 19983

1. WE IN PARIS ARE NOT WELL INFORMED EITHER ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE UK-SEYCHELLES AGREEMENT OR ON THE REASONS FOR FRENCH REQUESTS FOR TRANSIT PRIVILEGES FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INDICATION THAT CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE DEPARTMENT TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FRENCH EFFORTS IN DJIBOUTI AND THEIR REQUESTS FOR SEYCHELLES TRANSIT PRIVILEGES, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE POSITION OUTLINED IN REF A IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERESTS IN THE REGION.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE US WISHES TO HAVE FRANCE CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE KNOTTY PROBLEM OF ASSURING STABILITY IN THE HORN FOLLOWING THE FTAI'S ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE. WE WONDER WHETHER THE NEGATIVE STANCE WE ARE TAKING ON FRENCH TRANSIT PRIVILEGES IN THE SEYCHELLES MAY NOT BE CONTRARY TO OUR POLICY OF KEEPING THE FRENCH OUT IN FRONT ON DJIBOUTI, A POLICY WHICH INCLUDES MAINTAINING FRENCH FORCES IN THE AREA. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ACCEPTING THE FRENCH REQUESTS MIGHT OPEN THE DOOR FOR
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LESS DESIRABLE MILITARY USAGE, WE WISH TO FLAG THE

DJIBOUTI CONNECTION AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN
DETERMINING OUR FINAL POSITION ON THE MATTER.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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